

Longitudinal Evaluation of Wisconsin's Low Income Weatherization Program

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Longitudinal Approach

- Process evaluation (Y1-3)
 - DOA staff
 - WAP local agencies and regional coordinators
 - Utility representatives
 - Bulk fuel vendors
 - Participant and non-participant surveys
- Energy savings
 - Billing analysis, including bulk fuels (Y3)
 - Refrigerator replacement assessment (Y2)
- Non-energy benefits
 - Participant and non-participant surveys (Y3)
 - Arrearage analysis (Y3)
- Market characterization and GIS mapping (Y2-3)

Benefits of Longitudinal Approach

The longitudinal approach gave us the ability to . . .

- Follow the same group of participants and non-participants over time to assess the program's influence on
 - Participant self-sufficiency, behaviors, energy savings and non-energy benefits
- Follow-up after evaluation recommendations have been made
- Follow-up after program changes have occurred
- Capture enough pre-program and post-program billing data to allow us to do a rigorous impact analysis

Issues

- Longitudinal approach
 - Retention of panel of participants/non-participants over 3-year period (cooperation was not the issue)
 - Lack of working telephones
 - Mobility of population
- State-administered program
 - Lack of real partnership with utilities resulting in unwillingness to supply billing and arrearage data needed for impact evaluation
- Public benefits funding
 - Frustration/confusion among weatherization participants who aren't eligible for electric measures since their utility is not participating